

Ukrainian Catholic Youth Organization Youth

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Youth . . . The Golden Age of Opportunity

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OUR SINCERE THANKS

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as soon as possible.

THE NATIONAL MONTHLY FOR UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH

What About Tomorrow?

The beginning of a new year is always time for reflection. It is a period which makes us look back at the year just ended and wonder whether we can really be truly happy and satisfied with what we have accomplished. Time is such a fleeting thing that once we let it slip by without making sufficient use of it, it never returns to give us a second chance.

Time is relentless — there is no stopping it. That is why it is so important, at the beginning of the year, to stop and reflect as to whether we have made the most of the time which we had and to determine our new approach in the future. Each one of us has an obligation to live life to the full according to the talents which each of us has and according to the laws of our true Catholic faith. A person who does not abide by these conditions fails in his purpose in life. The world should be that much better for our having lived in it. If we just coast along we are no better than a piece of driftwood on the sea — being buffeted along from place to place.

Although the majority of us make fervent resolutions at the beginning of the new year it somehow seems that we often slacken along the way and fall back into the lazy, groove of inertia. What is it that is responsible for the downfall of our good intentions. The culprit is the great enemy of all people — procrastination — the putting off until tomorrow what we should do today.

Putting off a homework assignment, neglecting to answer that letter, start reading the book we've been planning to, taking a more active interest in U.C.Y. activities and the like are all examples of procrastination. We always plan to work harder and to make better use of our time. Yet, in the majority of cases we fall into the fallacy of saying "Oh well, I can do it tomorrow." Yet, tomorrow comes and we simply postpone doing things until another tomorrow comes along — with the same dire results.

The same can be said of people engaged in the various professions, business and trades. There is always the thought of doing better work, keeping abreast of all improvements, putting in a little overtime once in a while to keep up with, or ahead of the work, trying to improve our own status. Yet, here again it seems that tomorrow is always a better time to start than today. As a result, we see our contemporaries getting ahead of us all the time. While we are merely

thinking about what we are going to do, others are actually doing the very things we should be. Consequently, while promotions are passing us by, our fellow workers are slowly but surely climbing the ladder of success and we are left behind in the replaceable brackets of the organization.

Procrastination may be applied to every aspect of our life—religion, education, business, organizations and the like. What can be done to stop this vicious enemy? The best method by far, is to do things as they come up. Let's take the examples of two girls working in the same office. One is a chronic complainer — she complains about the amount of work which is piled on her desk from day to day. As a result she begins to worry about it, gets fits of depression with occasional tearful outbursts, is often sick because of the strain to which she submits herself, and carries the same attitude home with her making her constantly neurotic and disagreeable. Yet, the girl sitting of the desk next to hers has the same amount of work but is always cheerful and in good spirits. Instead of putting things off and complaining about them, she works steadily, completes her work, and still has time to relax. Very often we find that the work we had to do wasn't quite as great as we had originally imagined it.

Many persons have a habit of postponing what they consider are difficult tasks. Consequently they become completely bogged down. However, if these same people took a more positive approach, they would find that what they considered difficult was not nearly so bad as they had imagined it to be. The biggest difficulty of all is getting started.

Too many of our young people seem to prefer the easy way out of things: Television instead of homework, movies and dances instead of an active approach to their youth organization, materialistic pleasure instead of living their faith at all times, a lethargic approach to their job instead of a keen interest and increased work. Because youth is such an important time in the life of every individual, it is very important that we do not miss the one chance we get. We are young only once. Let's lay a firm foundation for our future life. Let's toss off the bonds of apathy and sloth. Let's show that youth is really a time of constructive action. Let us conduct ourselves in such a way that we will be a credit to our Church, our family and our nation. It is easy to talk about this but putting our thoughts into action is often very difficult because of the many worldly pleasures and temptations which may beset us. We need help if we are to avoid the creeping and destructive disease of procrastination. This help is readily available to all of us if we will only take it. Our own Catholic faith is our bulwark and our strength. Frequent prayers and holy communion are our greatest aids. Graces may be readily received if we but ask for them. If we find the going difficult we can always

turn to our spiritual leaders for the extra boost of self-confidence and faith. Although our priests are usually swamped with other work pertaining to their respective parishes, they will never refuse to help anyone who needs it. Let's take advantage of their wisdom, faith and training to bolster our own. True faith and confidence in God will overcome any apathy and enable us to fulfill our true purpose in life. Tomorrow will be here shortly. Let's not pass it by with merely dreams — let's take full advantage of the precious time it brings.

Positive Approach To "YOUTH" In 1960

Following are a few thoughts pertaining to a more positive approach to the YOUTH magazine, which we hope all of our readers and their respective U.C.Y. organizations will follow.

"QUALITY"

One of the very important tasks we should set for ourselves during this year is to improve the quality of our YOUTH magazine. Although the present management is striving to do its best, that is far from enough. More aid is necessary if this magazine is to become more interesting and acceptable to all readers and to acquire more subscribers. All of you have your own personal opinions about this magazine — why not write and let us know about them — both favorable and unfavorable comments are solicited. There are probably numerous things you would like to see in this publication. If we don't know what they are, nothing can be done along this line. Better still, why not sit down and write the kind of articles which you would like to see published in this magazine. If you don't have the inclination to do it yourself, why not make it a group project. We are desperately in need of original articles as you can see from the numerous reprints we are forced to use.

"LOCAL NEWS ITEMS"

We would like to receive regular news items from all locals. We urge U.C.Y. organizations to make use of the facilities we offer them. There is absolutely no charge for any announcements a club would like to make. We are anxious to give full coverage to all conventions. We would like to publish pictures of various U.C.Y. groups and their activities. There is only a small charge for cuts of photographs — we do not charge for space. We would like to have regular contributions to a regular feature "Personality of the Month". In brief, we would like to hear from you more often. How else can we keep in touch?

"SUBSCRIBERS"

We would, of course, like to have more subscribers. As you can see from the statistics on YOUTH, our number of subscribers is dras-

tically low compared to the potential available. Let's do something constructive along this line. Every U.C.Y. member should be a YOUTH subscriber. All subscriptions should be received on time.

"PRESS FUND"

As noted many times in the past, subscriptions alone do not pay for the cost of publishing our magazine. We DO need contributions. As you can see from the article "YOUTH Honour Roll", we stand very poorly in this regard. Here again, the actual contributions are way below potential.

If we concentrate on the above four suggestions, we will end up the year 1960 with the best YOUTH publication possible, and with a very pleasant financial status.

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DIOCESAN RALLY OF THE U.C.Y. OF EASTERN CANADA

February 26 - 27 - 28, 1960

AT

ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH HALL
ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
PARISH HALL, MONTREAL, QUEBEC

FRIDAY, February 26th —

8:30 - 10:00 — Registration

SATURDAY, February 27th —

9:00 - 10:30 — Registration

10:30 - 12:30 — Opening Session

12:30 - 2:00 — Lunch

2:00 - 4:30 — Afternoon Session

4:30 - 6:30 — Recess

6:30 - 8:45 — Banquet

8:45 - 2:00 a.m. — Dance

SUNDAY, February 28th —

9:00 - 10:00 — Mass

10:00 - 12:30 — Communion Breakfast

12:30 - 2:00 — Closing Session

2:00 - 5:00 — City Tour

1959 "Youth" Honor Roll

This annual feature was instituted for the purpose of granting recognition and honor to those individuals and organizations who are sincerely interested in the welfare and future of the YOUTH. To the following individuals and organizations we extend our sincere thanks for their very welcome support during 1959. We are thankful that they heeded to our call and set an example for others to follow.

PATRON

His Excellency Bishop Neil Savaryn, Bishop of Edmonton, without whose aid the regular publication of the YOUTH within the past four years would not have been possible.

U.C.Y. ORGANIZATIONS

Following are U.C.Y. groups who have contributed generously to our Press Fund in 1959. Clubs are listed according to size of contributions. Where amounts were of equal value, the alphabetical arrangement was used:

U.C.Y. of Winnipeg Diocese, Winnipeg, Man.
St. Basil's U.C.Y., Edmonton, Alberta
St. Basil's U.C.Y., Regina, Sask.
Borschiw U.C.Y., Borschiw, Alberta
Dauphin U.C.Y., Dauphin, Manitoba
St. Basil's U.C.Y., Toronto, Ontario
Mundare U.C.Y., Mundare, Alberta
Ethelbert U.C.Y., Ethelbert, Manitoba

INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIBERS

The following individuals are to be congratulated for their keen interest in our magazine. Not only have they been keeping their subscriptions up-to-date, but they have also contributed to our Press Fund:

Peter Kruk, West Kildonan, Manitoba
Marian Chorneyko, Ethelbert, Manitoba
Virginia Kwasny, Winnipeg, Manitoba
Helen Goshlak, Winnipeg, Manitoba
Olga Goshlak, Winnipeg, Manitoba
Jean Melnychuk, Winnipeg, Manitoba
P. J. Worobets, Rosthern, Saskatchewan

"Youth" Statistics

In order to give our readers an accurate picture as to the statistics of the YOUTH magazine, we have compiled the following statistics from our mailing lists. Under "subscribers" we have listed all of those who received this issue of YOUTH. In the column next to it we have listed the number of subscribers whose renewal is due as of Jan. 1, 1960. Since carrying these overdue subscribers is an unnecessary expense, we will be forced to stop sending the YOUTH to them unless we receive their renewal before the next edition of our magazine.

ALBERTA

Place	Subscrib.	Due
Bruderheim	3	0
Calmar	9	8
Calgary	8	0
Chipman	16	9
Derwent	7	0
Edmonton	148	43
Haight	5	0
Hilliard	5	0
Hines Creek	2	1
Holden	9	4
Lamont	6	1
Lavoy	4	0
Mundare	10	9
Muyrnam	16	3
Peno	6	0
Skaro	5	1
Star	8	1
St. Michael	4	3
Vegreville	7	0
Singles	16	3
TOTAL	294	86

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Richmond	8	0
Vancouver	18	0
Singles	4	1
TOTAL	30	1

MANITOBA

Arborg	9	0
Dauphin	31	9
Ethelbert	18	4
Poplarfield	2	0
Sifton	5	5
Silver	4	0
Skylake	2	0
Winnipeg	44	29
Singles	17	4
TOTAL	132	51

ONTARIO

Grimsby	6	6
Hamilton	29	29
Toronto	52	21
Oshawa	5	4
Sudbury	4	0
Windsor	2	0
Singles	10	7
TOTAL	108	67

SASKATCHEWAN

Buchanan	12	0
Canora	14	2
Prince Albert	3	3
Regina	4	0
Saskatoon	72	14
Yorkton	2	1
Singles	10	3
TOTAL	117	23

OTHERS

Montreal, Que.	6	0
Hay River, N.W.T.	1	1
Sidney, N.S.	1	1
TOTAL	8	2

GRAND TOTALS:

Subscribers	689
Renewals due	230
Subscribers in good standing	459

Standing as of January 1, 1960

As you can see by the above statistics, 689 copies of this magazine are being mailed this month. How-

ever, unless 230 renewals are received before the February edition goes to press, we will be forced to omit a considerable number of subscribers.

Furthermore, a large number of the remaining 459 subscriptions are due to expire between now and March.

Will you please co-operate by keeping your subscription up-to-date.

The statistics presented should give U.C.Y. locals across Canada a clearer picture as to the support they are giving the YOUTH magazine.

Borschiw U.C.Y.

The Borschiw U.C.Y. held its annual election on the evening of November 29th. Elected were: President, Walter Poluntranko; Vice-President, Marilyn Rurka; Secretary, Joyce Kubin; Treasurer, Joe Nowak; Fifth Member, Lloyd Augusytovich; Lunch and Social Committee, Marcia Bilyk; Rose Ann Klymochko, James Romaniuk, Bernie Stewart; Auditors, Ron Kaysan Phyllis Manowski and Press Reporter, Veneta Augustynovich.

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New Kiew U.C.Y.

The New Kiew U.C.Y. club was re-organized in November. The new slate of officers for the 1959-60 term is as follows:

President, Peter Pauk; Vice-President, Edward Cymbaluk; Secretary-Treasurer, Margaret Samoil; 4th

Member, Mary Kulak.

Our club has been active during the past year, taking part in U.C.Y. sports, conventions, carolling, and various numerous social activities.

Although we have had unusual good terms in the past, our goal this year is to have a better one yet.

We, the U.C.Y. of New Kiew, wish all our fellow members a happy and very successful New Year. God bless you all!

Respectfully submitted by,
MARGARET SAMOIL

—0—

Star-Peno U.C.Y.

Annual meeting of the Star-Peno U.C.Y. was held at the parish hall, on October 4, with 25 members present. At present there are 30 members enrolled in the 1959-60 year.

The meeting was opened for a new slate of officers. Elected to the executive were the following: Lawrence

Skubleny, president; John Holowaty, vice-president; Margaret Rohatynski, secretary; Wilfred Malowney, treasurer; Joe Prokopiw, Fifth Member, and Billy Skubleny, press reporter. The social committee consists of Dianne Zallas, Frank Holyk, Emily Malowany and John Holowaty. The spiritual advisors are Pat Rohatynski and Nestor Malowany.

At this meeting it was decided to hold meetings once ever three weeks with a social evening. Plans are also being made for future activities for the year. Father Ivanec then said a few words pertaining to hold the interest of the members and keep the club strong. The meeting was closed with a prayer. After the meeting we had a little social and everyone went home happy with bright prospects for the future.

Roblin, Man. U.C.Y.

This is our first letter to your magazine, although we are constant readers of it.

We started the year with putting on a social, inviting Russell, Angusville, Yorkton, Sifton, Ethelbert and Dauphin U.C.Y. clubs. All clubs could not attend but nevertheless we had an attendance of 75 and a successful evening.

For Christmas our group went carolling and did very well.

On Sunday, January 17th, we held a Broomball Tournament at the St. Vladimir's College ice, inviting the clubs that could not attend our social in November — that was Dauphin, Russell and Angusville. Russell club walked off with the prize. After a strenuous afternoon of play-

ing, the group of about fifty gathered at the Ukrainian Catholic Parish Hall for lunch and watched some entertaining films.

Then at 7 p.m., we all attended service at the chapel at which Father Dzurman gave a very interesting sermon on "Prayer".

After the service the group departed for the hall again at which we ended up the evening dancing and playing games.

We greatly enjoyed reading the articles and letters in your magazine and it is nice to hear what other clubs are doing.

VELDA SAFRONETZ,
Press Correspondent
Roblin U.C.Y. Club

Dauphin U.C.Y.

At our last meeting a new slate of officers was elected. The new executive consists of:

President, Nellie Lesiuk; Vice-President, Walter Huska; Secretary, Leona Kokolski; Treasurer, Irene Kokolski; Fifth Member, Ken Solomon; Auditors, Adam Brezden and Connie Kondra.

A social committee was also chosen.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the past executive for a job well done, and to wish the new executive continued success.

Thanks also goes to Father Oucharyk, our parish priest, who attends our meetings and helps us solve our difficulties. During future meetings we will have a religious hour, which will bring us closer to God.

A decision was made on having

our meetings of one hour's duration.

Recent activities include: a "get-together" social evening, a number of dances, a turkey bingo, a Communion breakfast, a Christmas party, and carolling.

A sum of money was donated to the Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood.

We are now looking forward to a big dance to be held in the parish hall on January 16. The proceeds from this dance will go to the St. Paul's Home for the Aged, which was recently badly destroyed by fire.

In closing, may God send His blessings to you all.

MARIE DOHAN,
Press Correspondent

Ethelbert, Man.

The first Youth club meeting of the year was held on October 2nd and the following officers were chosen for the executive:

President, Terry Dudar; Vice-President, Anne Krasey; Secretary, Nadia Kozyk; Club Reporter, Gloria Pachkowski; Social Convener, Eleanor Pazuk; Treasurer, Stacia Domaretzki.

It was decided that meetings would be held every first Monday of the month.

There were 23 members in the first club meeting this year.

Club Reporter,
GLORIA PACHKOWSKI

The Rosary

"HAIL, MARY, FULL OF GRACE,
THE LORD IS WITH THEE."

— Luke 1:28

The story of the Rosary begins in a little house at Nazareth. Our Lady conceived her Divine Son and began to live the beautiful truth of the Rosary, the Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries.

Many of you may ask this question: "What is the use of mumbling the same prayer over and over, five times, ten times, fifty times?"

Well, thirteenth century men were asking the very same question. As a result of their doubts, Christian civilization was dying out. Then God raised up one of His great saints, St. Dominic, a devoted child of Mary. There seemed to be no hope of saving a sin-oppressed

world. With all the fervor of his soul, he called upon his Mother.

The lovely Queen of Heaven and Earth appeared to him, holding a rosary in her hand, taught him how to pray it, and instructed him to preach it to the world.

These are the words telling the secret of its power: "Introduce the Rosary everywhere; teach it to the people and tell them that this devotion is most pleasing to my Divine Son as well as to me. By means of the Rosary devotion, virtue will flourish, vice will be destroyed, heresy will perish, and Divine graces will be obtained. The Rosary will be an inexhaustible fountain of every kind of blessing. I promise you that I will prove by many graces how pleasing this devotion is to

me, and how profitable to the faithful."

St. Dominic did introduce the Rosary to the people, as his Lady asked, but more than that he made it his life's work.

For nearly two centuries the Rosary remained the great prayer of Christians. Later, when the first ardor for the Rosary seemed to slacken, Our Lady appeared to Blessed Allan, another of her zealous sons. She told him to revive the Rosary, adding that volumes would be needed to tell of all its miracles.

Coming closer to our times, we have further evidence of the great value of the Rosary. Eighteen times at Lourdes, Our Mother appeared to Bernadette, prayed the Rosary with her and recommended the practice to the world. Again, on Oct. 13, 1917, in Fatima, Our Immaculate Mother summed up the importance of the Rosary by calling herself the Lady of the Rosary. These are her words: "I am the Lady of the Rosary, and I have come to warn the faithful to amend their lives and ask pardon for their sins. They must not continue to offend Our Lord, already so deeply offended. They must say the Rosary."

Our Lady has kept all of her pro-

mises. She has saved individuals, families and nations.

Our nation, our brothers and sisters, our Mother country are in great physical as well as spiritual torment. They haven't the great privilege of religious freedom. Many of them have not had the opportunity even to hear about the Rosary. Even if they did, they wouldn't be allowed to hold this treasure in their hands or, needless to say, to pray it. Yet we who have the freedom of religion, who have had the opportunity to learn our faith, to practice it, we, who are blessed with good parents, good priests, good Catholic schools, take this gift so lightly.

Please take the opportunity of the freedom that your new country offers you. You have the opportunity to pray. You also can pray for your brothers and sisters who have not had this opportunity.

Won't you pray for your Mother country, for your brothers and sisters? Your prayer may be the prayer that is needed to free your Native land, to convert the enemies of your Mother country. Your Rosary prayers may be the prayers that will be the turning point of the world.

Won't you say it?

— LEASA MALAR

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Manners For Youth

QUERY: What social qualities does a young man most respect in and expect of a young woman? Why?

TO THIS question the young men answered with the following interesting list of qualities:

They wanted the young woman

to display modesty, purity, good manners, sportsmanship, personality, neatness and good taste in dress, a sense of humor, the ability to listen well, femininity and naturalness, sincerity, intelligence, poise, kindness. They expressed themselves as disliking in a girl the habits

of drinking and smoking, loudness of speech, the use of too much make-up, profanity.

HERE are some of the rules for social conduct that were laid down by young men for young women:

Girls should be independent and not follow the crowd.

They should be able to adapt themselves to various conditions.

Girls should not desert their escort for someone else for the whole evening.

They should have a certain amount of gratitude.

They should be feminine and not modernly mannish.

No bragging, please, about past dates.

Girls should be decent in dress and in speech.

They should not be too free to stay up too late.

They should be satisfied with less costly things.

Wisely they will laugh at their escort's jokes, but not to the extent of embarrassing him.

They will not be ashamed of their parents or immediate family.

If they do not like children, dogs and flowers, they are untrustworthy.

They should avoid loud clothes and brilliant fingernail polish.

QUERY: What social qualities does a young woman most respect in and expect of a young man? Why?

HIGH in the list of qualities that the young ladies demanded of their escorts were manliness, sportsmanship, decency, kindness, punctuality, politeness, respect, intelligence, courtesy, neatness, a sense of humor. They dislike a boy who drinks, uses

obscene language, swears, or fails in respect toward women.

THEY suggested the following definite rules for social conduct:

A young man should cultivate a neat appearance.

He should develop the ability to converse pleasantly on pleasant subjects.

He should leave references to his other girl friends out of the conversation.

He should be dependable and considerate.

He must be able to take a joke.

He should cultivate a sense of humor.

He should know when to go home, not stay around too late, and not come bobbing up continuously.

He will assist a girl who is carrying a heavy bundle.

He should take a girl home at the time she is supposed to get there, otherwise she will be the one to suffer.

He should not grumble about expenses; it sounds too depressing.

QUERY: When a young man calls on or for a young lady, what is expected of him?

TO THIS question the young ladies answered:

He should have patience if the girl is a bit late.

He should get out of the car (if he is in one) and go up to the house; under no circumstances should he sit in the car and honk the horn.

When he leaves the girl, he should assist her to the car.

While waiting for the girl, he should meet the girl's family cheerfully and have some conversation ready to use until she is ready to leave.

He is wise to fall in with and talk to her father about his (the father's) pet subject.

He should be on time.

He should tell the parents where he intends to take their daughter and the time that he expects to bring her home.

If he is merely calling on the girl, he should not stay out too late.

The general rule is that his escorting of the girl starts the minute she comes down the stairs and not only after they get into the car.

He should bring her home at the time her parents indicate.

QUERY: When a young man calls on or for a young lady, what is expected of the young lady?

TO THIS question the young men answered:

She should be ready when he calls. If she isn't ready, she certainly should not keep him waiting long.

She should introduce him to those members of her family that are present.

She should be polite and pleasant, make him feel at ease in her home, be cordial and entertaining.

If the boy is a little timid, she must help him through the ordeal of meeting the family.

She should express her appreciation for an enjoyable evening.

She should not:

- expect him to carry her compact;
- pout or hold a grievance;
- expect gifts at each call;
- "make an entrance";

- look or act bored while the parents are conversing with the boy;

- excuse her family's faults by excessive explanations;

- seem too glad to see him.

QUERY: What rules would you set forth for proper conduct in automobile driving?

THE FOLLOWING rules were offered by both the young men and the young women:

Keep your eyes on the road and not on your friend.

Both hands are needed on the wheel.

Speeding simply risks everyone's life.

Too many should not be crowded into a car.

It is smart to observe and follow traffic signals.

Girls should not be expected to sit on boys' laps.

Girls should not try to distract the driver.

Hence they should not ask too many questions.

They should not complain about the car or about the bumps in the road.

Cars were intended for transportation and not for "necking"; as a means of conveyance and not for the furthering of romantic impulses.

Avoid secluded spots.

Alcohol and gasoline have never yet successfully mixed.

QUERY: Give some rules of conduct at a dance.

THE FOLLOWING rules were recommended by young people:

The first, middle, and last dances belong to your partner of the evening.

A girl should dance with any respectable person of her acquaintance who asks her to dance. Only the best of reasons should make her refuse. If for some good reason she refuses, she should not immediately

accept the dance with someone else.

Young people should be respectful to chaperons.

If he wishes to dance with other girls, a boy should see to it that his partner has a number of young men with whom to dance.

A young woman should not neglect her escort for another man.

It is bad taste to dance all evening with the same person.

A girl should not cross the dance floor alone.

Courtesy to each and all of one's partners is the general rule.

A girl does not dance with a boy unless she has been formally introduced to him.

Cheek-to-cheek dancing is bad manners. Young people should dance correctly, hold themselves erect, be neither too close nor too far from the partner, and not rest their head on the shoulder of the partner.

Boys soon find out and dislike a girl who steals another girl's dances.

A man should always make satisfactory apologies if he is late in claiming a promised dance.

If the dance floor is crowded, fancy steps are a nuisance and a danger.

Young people should not leave the dance floor or the environs of the dance floor until it is time to go home.

Neither party should wander off with someone else.

Ladies and gentlemen are never boisterous or conspicuous. They can be pleasant, cheerful, and the best of company without becoming cheap and annoying to others.

No lady or gentlemen becomes intoxicated at a party.

Smoking and dancing at the same time is extremely bad manners.

The lady should make the first move toward going home.

A decent young man will not insist on a good-night kiss.

Know Your Faith

If Catholics have such faith, why are they forbidden to read books which disagree with the Catholic Church. Surely their faith must be very weak if it cannot stand up to a bit of discussion.

That is like saying: "If my boy of twelve wants to read filthy books, let him!" We are more ignorant in the knowledge of divine things than children are in the things of life. We need a guide. God knows better than we do. That is why He has given us His Church to guide us.

You say: "Surely their faith must

be very weak . . ." Unfortunately that is often the case. It is precisely for the weak ones that the Church is concerned. The Faith is too precious a thing to risk. Indiscriminate reading of theological books is very dangerous for people who are not trained in theology and who therefore cannot be sure of detecting error, which can be made to appear very attractive and plausible. There are some few bottles which a wise druggist marks "Poison", for the sake of those ignorant of chemistry who might like to drink the

poisonous liquid because it looks pleasant or smells like "pear drops".

In Confession, why is it necessary to declare the kind of sins you have committed? Why shouldn't it be sufficient to say, for example: "I have committed five mortal sins, and at least ten venial ones," and leave it at that?

Because the Church assures us that it is God's law that in the Sacrament of Penance we must confess in number and kind every mortal sin which, after careful thought, we can remember we have committed after Baptism and have not yet confessed.

The requirement follows from the nature of the sacrament to the extent that Our Lord put the power to forgive into the hands of His Church to be exercised in the form of a judgment. "Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them: and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained" John xx, 23). An act of judgment should be based on evidence. In the matter of sin the relevant evidence, concerning as it does the dispositions of the sinner's mind, can come only from the sinner. In other words, he must confess. Christ therefore implies the need of confession in the very words by which He bestows the power of forgiveness. Pursuing the same line of thought a stage further, it would seem reasonable that in order that the priest should be able to make a rational judgment of the penitent's condition, the confession should extend to a statement of the kind of sins committed.

The reasonableness is underlined by the consideration that the priest has to impose a penance propor-

tioned to the sins forgiven. It is further underlined by the fact that there are some sins which cannot be forgiven until the penitent is ready to undertake all possible reparation. It would be dangerous to presume that every penitent would realize this, especially in cases less obvious than that of plain theft. Besides, such confession is profitable in so far as it makes possible less necessary, but still profitable, advice.

All this argues to the reasonableness of the requirement, but the fact that God does require it rests upon God's say-so, conveyed to us by His infallible Church.

Occasionally my fellow workers make suggestive remarks in my presence. Am I guilty of wrong-doing because I understand what is being said?

In his valuable book "Moral Guidance" (Loyola University Press, Chicago), Rev. Edwin S. Healy, S.J., gives this statement which will answer your question:

If a person cannot avoid overhearing impure talk (e.g., of fellow workers in office or factory) provided he neither desires it, nor encourages it in any way, he commits no sin."

We congratulate you on the efforts that you are making to improve this situation in your office. It helps a great deal to deliberately change the conversation when the talk swings around to things that are out of order.

What is the meaning of the expression "bell, book and candle"?

These words are found in an ancient formula of excommunication which is no longer used. The sentence of excommunication closed

with the words: "close the book, quench the candle and ring the bell." The expression, bell, book and candle thus came to symbolize the penalties imposed by the Church for various forms of wrong-doing, or, in a more general way, the opposition afforded by the Church to its enemies. It has this meaning in a passage in Shakespeare's King John (act iii, scene 3) in which one of the characters, about to execute a mission of plunder, exclaims: "Bell, book and candle shall not drive me back."

This spring I intend to make an extended coast-to-coast trip by bus. Considering the length of the journey and the varied conditions of travel, must I observe the law of Friday abstinence while making the trip?

Generally speaking, moral impossibility excuses us from the observance of merely positive laws of the Church. An inconvenience, proportionate to the gravity of the law, is such a moral impossibility. Hence, if an inconvenience arises due to circumstances creating difficulties under which the Church did not intend the law to oblige us, the Catholic would be excused from the observance of the law.

Travelers, even those making trips of several weeks duration, are not automatically excused from the law of abstinence. A possible excuse could be found if real difficulty arose in obtaining the proper food. Such condition will never, or only very rarely, be verified in Canada, where food is abundant in great variety everywhere. Hence, lacking a justifying reason excusing you from the law of the Church, you

must observe the law of abstinence on the Fridays during which you are travelling.

How can the Church tolerate hypocrites. I've seen people I know go to Mass and even receive Holy Communion who certainly do not live Catholic lives during the rest of the week. Such things are scandalous.

In this life, the good and the bad are mixed up together. It is more than possible that there are certain Catholics who are externally pious and fulfilling some of the external observances of their faith, while they flaunt God's law in their everyday life. However, God is their judge.

We should concern ourselves with our own state before God, realizing that we must answer for our sins and not those of others. "Judge not, for with the judgment you judge, you shall be judged."

To permit ourselves to be wrongly influenced by the scandalous actions of another is to take scandal and this is sinful on our part. We need not condone the evil actions of a person, but that gives us no excuse to be less Christian because they are not all they should be. "Be not deceived, God is not mocked."

Christ Himself warned us that scandals would occur and that hypocrisy would not be unknown among some of those who claimed to follow Him. However, He also said: "yet woe to them by whom scandal comes." Let God take care of such people — they will receive a just judgment. We cannot judge — for there is much we do not know about the inner workings of a man's

soul, and we are too often wrong when we attempt to discern the intention of another.

In the cases of certain scandalous and public sinners, the Church has its external censures such as excommunication and interdict. Also, in certain instances where public sinners approach the Communion rail, the priest is obliged to refuse them the reception of the Blessed Sacrament when they have not sufficiently shown repentance. These things are done not only for the welfare of the sinner concerned, but also in order not to add to the scandal and disedification of the people. However, the Church is most hesitant and paternal in resorting to such measures.

A friend of mine who says that it is wrong to make children join a certain church when they are young. She says we should wait until the children are old enough to decide for themselves.

We do not act like this in other things. For instance, we do not wait until children are older so that they can decide for themselves whether they want to be good Canadians. We teach them to be good, loyal Canadians from birth. We actually do our children a wonderful favor by giving them the advantages of God's true religion from their earliest days. Did you ever hear of anyone's not allowing their children to brush their teeth until they are convinced of its value?

Can you recommend a good one volume work on the history of the Catholic Church?

About the best we have seen is the one written by Father Philip Hughes. You can order it from your Catholic book shop. Father

Hughes is an Englishman now permanently located at the University of Notre Dame.

Many lapsed Catholics think that they have been excommunicated after a certain period of time, and that there is no hope of return. Is this true?

A Catholic is never excommunicated because of the length of time he has not been practicing his religion. One who has fallen away simply through neglect of Mass and the Sacraments has only to start practicing again to affect his return. Excommunication is the penalty attached to certain specified sins. If an excommunicate is truly sorry for his sin the penalty is lifted, but he still has certain conditions to fulfill.

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The midget auto was speeding down the road. About every 70 feet it would hop into the air five feet or so, then dash on. Finally a cop hailed the driver in bewilderment.

"Say," he barked at the driver, "am I crazy, or what's wrong with that puddle jumper?"

"Nothing, officer," apologized the driver. "It's me. I've got the hiccoughs."

During the war a young pilot landed on an aircraft carrier and hurried to the skipper to say, "What a day I've had — I shot down seven Jap planes, sunk a destroyer and left a cruiser listing."

"Velly good, Yank, but you make one mistake."

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"They say his wife makes \$5,000 a year with her pen."

"I didn't know she was a writer."

"She isn't. She has a pig farm in Iowa."

The Easy Way

A little anecdote I once read so impressed me with its simple yet revealing thought that I am passing it on to you for your collection of things to remember.

The locale is a tiny community in the hills of Kentucky. It seems that the fame of a local marksman soon spread far and wide. In fact, it became so legendary that the editor of a large city daily sent his ace reporter to do an article on the personality involved. When he reached the home of the marksman he was amazed at the sight which presented itself to him. No matter where he looked — at the walls of the barn, house, shacks and on the fence posts he saw bulls-eye targets. In the exact centre of each target was a neat bullet hole. The reporter was amazed and was voluble in his praise. What impressed him considerably was the youthfulness of the marksman. Dead-eye Dick accepted the reporter's praise with open-mouthed pleasure. Finally the reporter asked, "Tell me, Dead-eye, what is the secret of your success? What has enabled you to acquire such uncanny accuracy?" Dead-eye blushed and answered, "Aw shucks, twarn't nothin. All I did was shoot first and draw the target later."

Although the majority of us do not reach such heights of deception, we often find ourselves doing what Dead-eye did — taking the easy way out of things. Many of us are always looking for the short-cut to

success — actually believing that there is such a way. However, we eventually find out that even if we happen to achieve some form of success in this manner it is always a fleeting type. Just as surely as day follows night, our deceptions will be uncovered.

If we read the biographies of successful people we learn that not one of them became famous by taking short-cuts. Each one became famous because of honest hard work. No matter how much we try to convince ourselves otherwise, we will eventually be jolted to the inescapable truth that there is no easy way to success. There is no short-cut to heaven, there is no short-cut to the acquisition of knowledge or to a responsible position. Hard work is the means by which we can succeed in life.

Anytime we find ourselves looking for loopholes in our tasks, everytime we feel like shirking our responsibilities, or taking the easy, ineffective way out of our assigned jobs, let us think back to Dead-Eye Dick. Then let us pattern our actions accordingly. If we do, we will never regret such action. Whatever is worth doing is worth doing well. Whatever we are working at, let us determine to do well. If we do, not only will we experience extreme satisfaction, but we will not have to seek success. It will seek us out itself.

